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Reserve

FOOD PREVIEW



A summary of the food outlook especially designed to give maximum advance information to food editors to help them plan food features.

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service

November 19, 1958

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- MEAT.....More meat is in prospect next year--perhaps about 4 pounds more per person--but consumption rate may run about 10 pounds below 1956 high. Pork will account for most increase, with little change expected in beef. Cattle production is now trending upward and January 1 inventories will rise at least 2 to 3 million head over first of 1958, with half to two-thirds of increase in calves. But not all increase in calves will be slaughtered since more than usual number will be held for breeding or later feeding. Since cow slaughter will probably remain rather small, total cattle slaughter will not increase greatly next year.
- Beef.....Higher grade beef from fed cattle will continue fairly plentiful in 1959 but lower grade will remain scarce. Per person consumption next year forecast at nearly 80 pounds--about same as this year.
- Pork.....Fall pig crop probably was well above a year earlier, which means substantially increased hog marketings beginning next spring. Considerable gain also expected in spring pig crop. Increased output will probably lift per capita consumption by 10% from this year's 60 pounds.
- Lamb.....Numbers of sheep and lambs being increased this year by 1-1/2 to 2 million head and uptrend will likely continue in 1959, so slightly more lamb and mutton per person is expected.
- POULTRY:
- Chicken.....Supplies of poultry meat first few months 1959 will be larger than year earlier. But increase in broilers not likely as great as this year when output runs about 15% above 1957. Next year broilers expected to account for more than three-fourths chicken supply, unchanged from this year. Per capita consumption of chicken in 1959 will likely run almost 29 pounds or 1/2 pound above current year.
- Turkey.....First half 1959 turkey slaughter will be greater than usual due to large poult hatchings in recent months and continuing large supply hatching eggs. Also, as new year begins, cold storage stocks of 1958-crop birds will perhaps be as great or greater than record holdings of 241 million pounds last January 1. Per capita consumption next year may be around this year's 5.6 pounds.
- Eggs.....Production next year will probably surpass 1958 and reach record levels but increasing population will hold per capita consumption near this year's level--which is considerably lower than since mid-40's. Consumption next year will average about 350 eggs as against 348 this year.
- DAIRY.....Slight increase in milk output and total consumption both probable next year. Consumption of milk products in commercial outlets in 1959 expected to more nearly balance milk production than any year in past 6.

VEGETABLES:

- Fresh.....Winter supplies will probably be substantially greater than last year, assuming more normal weather, particularly in Florida.
- Potatoes.....Heavy supplies will be available at least into spring. Sweetpotatoes available to mid-year will run about same as year ago.
- Processed.....Canned vegetable supplies to mid-1959 should be slightly larger than last season and materially greater than 1949-56 average. Stocks of tomato juice and tomato products appear heaviest, compared with year ago, while more snap beans and whole tomatoes are in prospect. Green peas continue in heavy supply but indications point to smaller supplies of canned corn, lima beans, and beets. Frozen vegetables--while somewhat below year earlier--are considerably above five-year average, with most items in ample supply.

FRUITS:

- Deciduous.....More apples and cranberries available this fall and winter than last, but fresh grapes over next few months depend mostly on volume of Emperors now being stored. But lighter crop indicates fewer fall and winter pears.
- Canned.....The 1958-59 canned fruit pack will be slightly below previous heavy production if current prospects materialize, though canned apples and applesauce probably will increase. Carryover stocks of most canned fruits in packers' hands last summer were below year earlier.
- Frozen.....Production of frozen deciduous fruits and berries--not including juices--may total somewhat smaller this year than last--mostly due to considerably lighter frozen cherry pack. Frozen strawberry pack may not differ much from 1957's large outturn.
- Dried.....This year's output will be somewhat under relatively light 1957 tonnage due to fewer raisins and prunes. Total supplies of dried fruits expected to be smallest in 40 years.
- Citrus.....Crops to be harvested through spring expected to provide more fresh citrus per person than year earlier, also more fruit for processing. Supplies of frozen citrus juices should be seasonally heavy after turn of year. Use of oranges for processing may rise in 1958-59 season with most increase going into frozen orange juice. Carryover of all processed citrus juices into 1958-59 marketing season ran much below year earlier.
- Tree Nuts.....Total production of walnuts, pecans, almonds and filberts is 2 percent above last year but 2 percent less than average.

The Plentiful Foods Program

The U. S. Department of Agriculture is supporting these industry campaigns:

FALL BROILER CAMPAIGN October 1 - November 30
FALL APPLE CAMPAIGN November 1 - December 31
"TURKEY FOR CHRISTMAS" December 1 - 31
MID-WINTER POTATO CAMPAIGN January 1 - 31
MARCH EGG MONTH March 1 - 31